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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 19 Mar 1948

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25X1 1. In February 1948, the total strength of the Korean Self Defense Army (KSDA) was 500 men; forty of these men were refugee students from North Korea, sixty were former Korean Volunteer Army members captured by the Nationalists in Manchuria and 420 were young Korean residents of Mukden, Changchun and Kirin.

25X1 2. The members of the KSLA are between the ages of 18 and 25, and most of them have only a primary school education. Some are ardent Communists and many others are in sympathy with the Chinese Communist cause.

3. The morale of the KEDA members is low and desertions occur on the average of twice a week. The living conditions are bad; the men receive no bedding and must sleep in their uniforms on cement floors. Two meals are served a day, each meal consisting of 1.2 catties of kaoliang, soup and a few vegetables for each man. The monthly pay of each enlisted man is only \$10,000 in Northeast Currency (NEC).

Comment: In March 1948, the black market rate of exchange between the NEC and the U.S. dollar was NEC \$52,000 to U.S. \$1.)

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